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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Tickets & Information: 212/854-7799; www.millertheatre.com

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“Isn’t it nice when composers are recognized while they’re still alive?” –New York magazine

MILLER THEATRE AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

proudly presents the second *Composer Portrait* of its 20th Anniversary Season:

Milton Babbitt: Complete String Quartets

The Zukofsky Quartet plays Babbitt’s notoriously difficult string quartets in 1 evening—a first!

Includes an onstage discussion with the composer and James Levine

Wednesday, November 5, 8:00PM

Single Tickets: \$25 • Students \$15 with valid ID

Composer Portraits

MILTON BABBITT: COMPLETE STRING QUARTETS

Wednesday, November 5, 8:00PM

Onstage discussion with Milton Babbitt and James Levine

Milton Babbitt (b. 1916), the godfather of American total serialism and one of the greatest musical minds of the 20th century, receives a long-overdue cycle of his quartets. Babbitt’s string quartets are some of the most challenging and difficult to play in the repertoire, and for the first time ever his complete extant string quartets (No. 1 is lost) will be played together in one concert. The **Zukofsky Quartet**, a daring foursome of immense talent, has spent two years preparing for this Portrait under the guidance of the composer himself.

PROGRAM: *String Quartet No. 2* (1954)
String Quartet No. 3 (1969-70)
String Quartet No. 4 (1970)
String Quartet No. 5 (1982)
String Quartet No. 6 (1993)

ARTISTS: **Zukofsky Quartet**
Aaron Boyd, *violin*
Cyrus Beroukhim, *violin*
David Fulmer, *viola*
Alberto Parrini, *cello*

BIOS: The compositional and intellectual wisdom of **MILTON BABBITT** has influenced a wide range of contemporary musicians. His achievements in the dodecaphonic system and writings on the subject have generated increased understanding and integration of serialist language into the eclectic musical styles of the late 20th century. Babbitt is also renowned for his great talent and instinct for jazz and his command of American popular music. Plus, an extensive catalogue of works for multiple combinations of instruments and voice along with his pioneering achievements in synthesized sound have made Babbitt one of the most celebrated of 20th-century composers. He was born on May 10, 1916 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and studied composition with Roger Sessions. He earned degrees from New York and Princeton Universities and has been awarded honorary degrees from Middlebury College, Swarthmore College, New York University, the New England Conservatory, University of Glasgow, and Northwestern University. He taught at Princeton University and The Juilliard School. He is a founder

and member of the committee of direction for the Electronic Music Center of Columbia-Princeton Universities and a member of the editorial board of Perspectives of New Music. The recipient of numerous honors and commissions, including a MacArthur Fellowship and a Pulitzer Prize Citation, Babbitt is a member of The American Academy of Arts & Letters and a fellow of The American Academy of Arts & Sciences.

Comprising four individuals of outstanding solo and chamber music experience, the **ZUKOFSKY QUARTET** has dedicated itself to the mission of presenting masterworks of the new, as well as the old. Currently the quartet-in-residence at Bargemusic, New York City's premier chamber music venue, they are also the first to perform all of Milton Babbitt's notoriously difficult string quartets in one concert. Individually, the members have participated in the Marlboro, Sante Fe, Prussia Cove, Seattle, and Ravinia festivals, and have collaborated with the Amadeus, Guarneri, Juilliard, and Orion quartets, as well as the Beaux Arts Trio.

**For the 2008-2009 season, Miller Theatre has commissioned
program notes by the renowned writer and music critic Paul Griffiths,
available online at www.millertheatre.com prior to each performance.**

*Columbia University's Miller Theatre is located north of the Main Campus Gate
at 116th St. & Broadway on the ground floor of Dodge Hall.*

For tickets, the public should call the Miller Theatre Box Office at 212/854-7799, M-F, 12-6PM.
Tickets can also be purchased online at www.millertheatre.com.

For further information, press tickets, and to arrange interviews,
please contact Aleba Gartner Associates at 212/206-1450 or a@alebgartner.com.

For photos, please contact Lauren Bailey at 212/854-2382 or lrb2113@columbia.edu.

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